



AGENDA
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, March 31, 2016 @ 2:30 p.m. *(Note Date/Time)
City Council Chambers, 10th Floor *(Note Location)

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Member

1. **Call to Order**
 2. **Roll Call**
 3. **Minutes**
 - March 11, 2016
 4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
 5. **Discussion/Action:**
 - A.) Discussion on Medical Marijuana Ordinance with City Attorney's Office
 6. **Other**
 7. **Adjourn**
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- Pending – Continued discussion regarding 3200 S. Washington
 - Pending – Update on Community Police Officers with LPD



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
March 11, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m.
Tenth Floor, City Council Chambers – Lansing City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Kristen Simmons, Assistant City Attorney
Michael Yankowski, City of Lansing Chief of Police
Courtney Vincent, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Baines-Lake, Lansing Housing Commission Director
Alexis Rosado, WLNS 6 News
Richard C. Pritchard
Marry Ann Prince
Kathy Miles
Jon Miles
Al Salas
Deb Parrish
Sharon Mollitor
Crystal Williams
Trina Morrison
Gerald Morrison
Michael R. Hays
Edward Forrest
Joanne Creede
Melissa Jeffries
Cathy A. Morgan
Cleola Acrey

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2016 AND FEBRUARY 26, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Councilmember Wood opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Michael Hays, a resident of 3200 S. Washington, addressed the Committee to express his concern over the safety of the residents at the property and to describe some of the transgressions he has witnessed while living there.

Ms. Cleola Acrey, a resident of 3200 S. Washington, addressed the Committee to express her concerns over the safety and sanitation of the building and to describe some of the problems she has witnessed while living there.

Ms. Sharon Mollitor, a resident of 3200 S. Washington, addressed the Committee to express her concern over the safety of the residents in the building and to describe some of the situation she has witnessed while living there.

Ms. Trina Morrison addressed the Committee on behalf of her daughter, a resident of 3200 S. Washington, to express her concerns over the safety of the residents in the building and the penalties residents faced for breaking their lease.

Mr. Richard Pritchard, a former resident of 3200 S. Washington, addressed the Committee to express his concerns over the conditions of the property and the current building manager.

Ms. Cathy Morgan addressed the Committee on behalf of her granddaughter, a resident of 3200 S. Washington, to express her concern over the conditions in the building and the difficulties she has encountered trying to break her granddaughter's lease.

Mr. Al Salas, a former South Lansing business owner, addressed the Committee in support of the concerns raised by the residents of 3200 S. Washington.

Discussion/Action:

DISCUSSION – Community Police Officers (CPO)

Councilmember Wood put the discussion with Chief Yankowski regarding the status of the Community Police Officers on hold until a future date and requested that Chief Yankowski attendance for that future meeting.

DISCUSSION – 3200 South Washington

Councilmember Wood invited Ms. Patricia Baines-Lake, Director of the Lansing Housing Commission (LHC), to join the Committee and Chief Yankowski at the table to continue the discussion on 3200 S. Washington.

Councilmember Hussain commented on the various news reports on 3200 S. Washington, going back as far as 2012. He recounted his experiences visiting the property in January and early March. He then shared pictures he had taken during his first visit to the property which depicted unsanitary and unsafe conditions inside the building. He expressed his concern over the lack of management, police, or security presence in the building. Councilmember Hussain explained that he filed a police report after his visit because a subject threatens him with violence if he did not leave the building.

He suggested that a meeting of the Committee on Public Safety be held on site to accommodate those residents who were unable to attend the regular Committee meetings. He relayed some of the issues residents had discussed with him including problems with the current manager, problems with trespassers, a lack of safety measures in the building, drugs being present in the building, and residents being threatened for speaking out against such illegal acts.

Councilmember Wood mentioned that the Lansing Police Department (LPD) had previously assigned a Community Police Officer (CPO) to that area with positive results. She asked Chief Yankowski to discuss what the LPD was currently doing to address the problems in the building.

Chief Yankowski stressed the importance of community involvement and cooperation to help maintain safety in the building. He clarified that the former CPO had been assigned to the Washington/Holmes area and not specifically 3200 S. Washington, and that a CPO would be assigned to that area in May once officer training was complete. He noted that LPD had access to the 28 security cameras in the building. He then mentioned that LPD would be having a community meeting in the building next week. He also invited members of the audience to meet with him once this meeting adjourned to further discuss their concerns. He suggested residents of 3200 S. Washington establish a neighborhood watch and mentioned that the LPD was planning on bringing a Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) program back to the MLK/Holmes area because of the success they had in crime reduction with the previous program. He also mentioned that they were reaching out to other law enforcement agencies throughout the country that have similar types of facilities to determine best practices to keep these types of problems in check.

Councilmember Dunbar expressed concern with putting the responsibility on the residents for response to the problems in the building. She commented that the fear residents felt, especially concerning retaliation for speaking out, would make doing what Chief Yankowski proposed difficult. Chief Yankowski replied that those committing the illegal activity wanted to make the residents afraid in order to prevent them from speaking out, and he reiterated his invitation for attendees to speak with him after the meeting.

Ms. Acrey addressed the Committee regarding the residents' fear of retaliation for speaking out. She also stated that residents were responsible for the costs of repairs if someone broke into their apartments. Chief Yankowski replied to the comment by describing previous mitigation efforts by the LPD and some methods that would help now. He stressed the importance of the community working with police to sustain a safe environment because officers could not be present at all hours.

Councilmember Dunbar stated that the issue of residents being required to pay a fine to break their lease needed to be addressed.

Councilmember Hussain expressed his concern over the placement and effectiveness of the cameras in the building. He then addressed the concerns expressed by residents regarding the current building manager. He stated that he had contacted the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office in Detroit to make them aware of the conditions at 3200 S. Washington.

Ms. Mollitor addressed the Committee to ask why the previous police presence had been removed from the building and to suggest that they be reinstated.

Mr. Hays addressed the Committee to ask where the security cameras were located in the building and who was responsible for watching them. He also suggested that more cameras be placed throughout the building and expressed his concern over the conditions of the building and the safety of the residents.

Chief Yankowski stated that the LPD had to ensure core services were met before allocating resources to special assignments. He also discussed some of the methods currently being

used to address the problems in 3200 S. Washington and reiterated that a CPO would be assigned in May after officer training was completed.

Ms. Kathy Miles, a resident of Lansing, addressed the Committee to suggest the LPD put undercover officers in vacant units in the building.

Ms. Morrison addressed the Committee regarding concerns over the security of the building and suggested using the security cameras footage to identify those responsible.

Councilmember Wood closed public comment and invited Ms. Baines-Lake to speak.

Ms. Baines-Lake addressed the comments made regarding the safety and sanitation conditions of the building. She stated that staff was present in the building five days a week and they cleaned the building each of those days and two residents were paid a stipend to assist in cleaning the building outside staff hours. She stressed the importance of a partnership between the staff and the residents to keep the building clean. She recognized the need for additional security cameras and stated that LPD had access to the footage, which was good for about 30 days. She explained that only a few cameras ran non-stop and the rest contained motion sensors that activated recording, and she stated she would not reveal the locations of the hidden cameras for security reasons.

Councilmember Dunbar asked if cameras would record when residents were being threatened in the hallways or common areas and that footage used to identify those responsible. Ms. Baines-Lake replied that it would record if it occurred in range of a camera. Councilmember Dunbar stated that residents needed to know the locations of all of the cameras because it would discourage negative behavior on the property. She also suggested a camera be placed in the garbage room to identify those leaving their trash on the floor. Ms. Baines-Lake responded that they had staff go through the trash to try to identify who was leaving it and, when evidence was found, those residents were addressed.

Councilmember Dunbar expressed concern that people were able to urinate or defecate in the stairwells without anyone noticing or reporting them. She stated that more cameras in visible places and residents feeling safe walking around the building would discourage such behavior.

Ms. Baines-Lake replied that some of the cameras were visible and reported that they were in the process of obtaining additional cameras through utilization of HUD funding; however, that funding was not allowed to be used for security personnel. She stated that there was an opportunity to request funds from HUD normally allocated for repairs be allowed to be used for additional police services but then there would be no funds for necessary repairs to the building.

Councilmember Wood asked if the LPD had access to live-stream security footage from the cameras in 3200 S. Washington. Chief Yankowski said he would need to check on that.

Councilmember Hussain expressed concern over the lack of follow-through with some of the promised actions by the LHC. He asked for a timeline for the additional security cameras and for a report on what has been done since 2012 to update the screening procedures and eviction policies, which was something the LHC had promised in 2012.

Ms. Baines-Lake stated that the LHC had an annual plan meeting that included a public hearing where suggestions and recommendations on their policies and procedures; the Lansing Housing Commission Annual Plan Meeting and Public Hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Park. She stated that she could not

provide an account today of what had changed in their policies and procedures since 2012. She described the screening process used by the LHC and stated that a background check was completed by a third party. She then commented on the federal requirements of public housing to accept people recently released from incarceration.

Councilmember Dunbar asked when the current building manager last had a performance review and if the Committee could view that document. Ms. Baines-Lake replied that it was within the last six months and that it was not a public document. Councilmember Dunbar requested that a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request be made by the City Attorney's Office to obtain that information. She also expressed concerns over the comments made by residents regarding the current building manager and the accusations of negligence made against her. She then requested that the Committee put together a document outlining tenant rights and what conditions tenants were and were not expected to live with. She asked when the last time HUD had visited the property. Ms. Baines-Lake replied it had been less than six months ago.

Councilmember Wood stated that the Committee would plan to have a meeting on site at 3200 S. Washington to continue the discussion, and that they would invite representatives from HUD to be present at the meeting.

Mr. Gerald Morrison addressed the Committee regarding the need to address the problems existing in the building.

Ms. Gina Salas addressed the Committee in support of the residents of 3200 S. Washington.

Councilmember Wood reviewed that Chief Yankowski had reported that the LPD was working to address the issues on South Washington, were asking patrols to stop at the building when they had the opportunity during regular patrols, were utilizing problem-solving resources and overtime as well as other measures that could not be presently discussed, were actively investigating the homicide that occurred on the property, and had a goal of putting a CPO in by May. She added that Chief Yankowski had also agreed to meet with residents of 3200 S. Washington after the meeting adjourned.

Chief Yankowski added that they were logging the patrol hours to have a quantitative value to share with the Committee.

Councilmember Wood reviewed that Ms. Baines-Lake had informed the Committee of the upcoming LHC Annual Plan Meeting and Public Hearing and encouraged residents of 3200 S. Washington to attend the meeting. She stated that the Committee was asking the City Attorney to submit a FOIA request to the LHC to obtain copies of the personnel file and last two performance reviews for the current building manager. She stated that the Committee would look into having a meeting on site at 3200 S. Washington within the next two weeks, they would invite representatives from the HUD office in Detroit to attend, and that they would post flyers around the 3200 S. Washington to inform residents of the date and time.

OTHER

ADJOURN

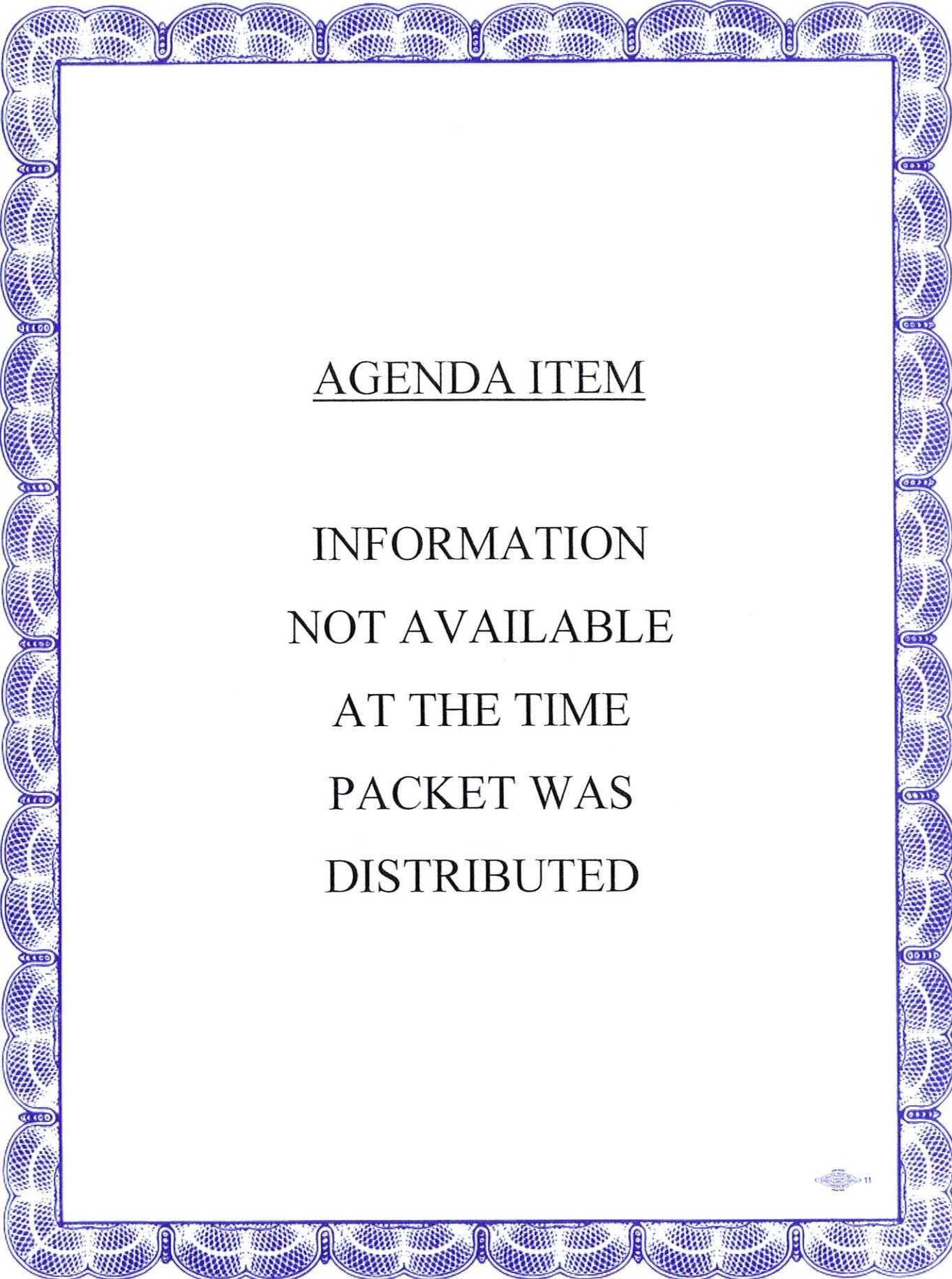
The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Courtney Vincent, Administrative Assistant

Lansing City Council

Approved: _____



AGENDA ITEM

INFORMATION
NOT AVAILABLE
AT THE TIME
PACKET WAS
DISTRIBUTED